

ELECTION NOTES

Donovan Hits Javits' Jingo Talk on Cuba

THE "INVADE AND BLOCK-ADE" Cuba pack led by Republican Senator Kenneth Keating (NY) and joined by incumbent Republican Senator Jacob Javits received its first serious challenge last week.

James B. Donovan, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate (NY) lashed out at Javits for his "dangerous talk" on Cuba.

Donovan who has been negotiating with Premier Fidel Castro for the release of 1,113 captured in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion last year, forecast an improvement in relations with Cuba, should the negotiations prove successful. He also indicated the U.S. was partly responsible for the deterioration in Cuban-U.S. relations.

Donovan's blast against Javits followed President Kennedy's attack against one of the leaders of the "war with Cuba" gang, Republican Senator Homer E. Capehart, Indiana. Kennedy called upon the voters to keep "at home" the candidates "who want to send someone else's sons to war."

The basis for this rebuttal to the war pack was of course the explosion of the myth that it was popular with the voters to call for aggressive action against Cuba.

The Gallup Poll showed that only ten percent of the people supported any kind of belligerent action against Cuba. The New York Post stated Oct. 15 that the "Gallup poll serves to underscore again how much Congress and the press can be out of touch with public opinion" and concluded that "the American public remains remarkably unhysterical about Cuba."

Javits, who obviously misread public sentiment, did his bit to whip up hysteria. He told the President that the U.S. could "simply not permit" Cuba's measures to defend itself from another invasion.

In contrast to Javits, Woman Strike For Peace in a big ad in the N.Y. Times last week asked: "Are you worried but silent" about "hot spots like Berlin, Viet Nam and Cuba that could erupt into nuclear war?"

It called upon the voters to act to get "more courageous

voices for peace representing us in Washington." The WSP is circulating a peace pledge addressed to political parties and Congressional candidates. It is collecting signatures of voters on this declaration promising to support candidates who will agree to work to end "testing and the spread of nuclear weapons," for "general and complete disarmament under UN safeguards, and to develop a national program for conversion" to a peace time economy.

The petitions will be gathered on Oct. 22 and presented to candidates before Election Day.

It would seem that the Gallup poll should provide final proof to the N.Y. Democrats that the voters, given a clear alternative would respond to the President's plea to keep "at home" those candidates "who want to send someone else's sons to war." Very few candidates meet that description as fully as Gov. Rockefeller who in the midst of the crucial days in Laos told an audience in Boulder, Colorado, May 12 that the "U.S. should not be afraid to use nuclear weapons."